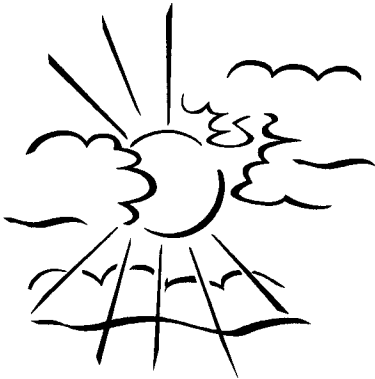


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*Important story at this spot

Articles in Today's Clips

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

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TOPIC	PAGE
*Foster Care	2-9
Health Care	10-13
Domestic Violence	14-15
*Juvenile Justice	16-19
Child Abuse/Neglect/Protection	20-26
Heating Assistance	27
Food Assistance	28
Adoption	29
*Early Childhood Development	30-31
Charities	32-33
Budget	34-35

Home to hundreds

Published Monday, May 15, 2006 11:50:00 AM Central Time

By DIANE MONTZ

Ironwood Daily Globe Staff Writer

BESSEMER TOWNSHIP -- Mary Bauer has mothered more than 100 children since 1974 when she and her husband Joe took in their first foster child.

"Mary's a great mother," Joe Bauer said Thursday.

They have two birth children and seven adopted children ranging in age from three to 33. The youngest, 3-year-old Richard, has lived with the Bauers since he was 3 months old -- they adopted him just two weeks ago.

"I married a woman that wanted 12 kids," Joe said.

An only adopted child of parents who themselves were only children, Joe was 27 when he married Mary -- and he didn't want children.

"My wife wanted children very desperately," he said.

'We Wanted to be Parents'

The Bauers got into foster care in Lansing after looking into adoption.

"We wanted to be parents. We were not having any luck," Joe said.

One Friday, as they were heading out to eat, a caseworker knocked on their door. She asked if they'd be foster parents.

They asked how much time they had to decide.

"45 seconds," Joe said, smiling years later as he told the story. The 18-month-old girl stayed with them for three months.

A few months later, they took in another toddler, Trudi. She was the first child they adopted.

"Once we had Trudi, you do that whole switch in your life," Joe said.

The young family moved to Bessemer in 1977. Joe worked for what is now the Department of Human Services. They moved into a big two-story house on Summit Avenue.

Their daughter Anjanette was born in 1978. When Mary was pregnant with their second child, Stephanie, born in 1982, they dropped out of foster care.

Within a year or two, they were recruited back.

"We were pretty selective when the children were very young," Joe said.

They're licensed as a six-bed home, with four permanent beds for children who could stay from birth to age 18 and two shelter beds for children to stay less than 30 days.

A long dining room table with three leaves accommodates 10 chairs with room to spare. A jungle tent full of toys faces shelves full of children's books. The front porch is filled with outdoor toys.

A Different Avenue

When the Bessemer school bus stopped at the Bauer home in Anvil Location Thursday afternoon, two Bauer teens and three younger foster children got off.

Leaving a pile of wet shoes in the foyer, they piled into the living room. A freckle-faced redhead asked for a cookie.

"Some kids want to be here. Most of them don't," Joe said.

Some children arrive without deep anger and settle in. Others are already involved with the legal system. Some are deeply hurt and say hurtful things to get a response.

Some stay for a day. Some arrive at 2 a.m. Some don't want to leave.

"Every kid should have an opportunity. I'm not saying Mary and I offer the best opportunity," Joe said, describing what they offer children as a look at "a different avenue."

Foster care offers a time-out for families while parents attempt to get a grip on their life, he said.

The Bauers try to be on a first-name, friendly basis with birth parents.

They make the foster children a part of their family, attending their Little League games and taking them along on family vacations.

When it's time, they let the children go home to their natural families -- even the reluctant children.

Joe Bauer tells them, "Your natural family is healing. You need to go back. That's your family."

'A Very Different Family'

In the late 1980s, the Bauers adopted three siblings who had come to them as foster children under age 5.

"They were only going to spend the day," Mary said.

In December 2004, they adopted two more foster children, a teenaged brother and sister. Earlier this month, they adopted Richard, a chatty, high energy strawberry blonde.

"We didn't ever think we'd have a 3-year-old at this age," Mary said with a laugh.

Over the years, they hosted 13 foreign exchange students. Most came from small families and didn't know what to make of the large, ever-changing Bauer household.

"This is a very different family," Joe said.

Some have returned, bringing their families to visit in summer.

The Bauers have three grandchildren, ages 5, 3 and newborn. They are the children of the oldest Bauer daughter, Trudi.

In a family photo taken last summer, the Bauers smile, surrounded by children, grandchildren, foster children, former foreign exchange students and their families.

Joe Bauer, recalling that he once didn't want children, said, "I can't imagine a life without children."

Building a home

Family committed to adoption welcomes gift of new house

By ANDREA BYL

The State News

May 23, 2006

Mason — The Wanger family's 84-year-old farmhouse is beyond repair.

The living room walls are lined with makeshift-plywood shelves piled with games and Braille books, the carpet is worn, walls chipped and the foundation is crumbling.

But despite the loose doorknobs and chipping paint, Francis, 67, and his wife Arlene, 65, have made the deteriorating stone farmhouse into a laughter-filled home for their seven children.

So when Mark Voss told them the Greater Lansing Home Builders Association — a nonprofit association made up of companies in the home-building industry — was raising money to build them

a new house, they didn't know what to say.

"It's still sort of unbelievable because I don't think of us doing anything special at all," Arlene Wanger said. "We did what we wanted to."

The couple raised 11 children over the course of their 47-year marriage, nine of whom were adopted and 10 of whom have disabilities. Out of the 11 children, seven remain at home.

"Before we were married, she made me promise we would adopt a handicapped child," Francis Wanger said.

Arlene added that Francis — the only child in his family — made her promise they would have more than one child.



AMANDA ROSS - The State News

Travis Wanger, 28, raises his hand to get his parents' attention so that they will see him sign "cotton candy," a favorite treat. His adopted father Francis Wanger, 67, seated to the right, and adopted mother Arlene (not shown) adopted him as an infant after being made his foster parents.

Yet the children aren't the only members of the family with disabilities. Francis has a prosthetic foot because of complications with diabetes. His health caused him to retire from the Secretary of State branch office in Mason after 19 years, putting financial strain on the family.

Seeing the need

Francis was having problems preparing his house for winter, so he asked Voss, a fellow member of Holt Christian Church, 2424 S. Washington Road in Holt, to stop by and help him.

"When I went out to the house, I realized there was a lot more to be done there than what they asked," Voss said. "The home has deteriorated to the point where I know I could not spend the night there."

In the fall of 2005, Voss, a member of the home builders association through his company The Kitchen Shop, 5320 S. Pennsylvania Ave. in Lansing, proposed fixing the Wanger's home to the association's service committee.

"We began to look at remodeling their home, and some members stepped up and said, 'Forget remodeling. This place is so bad we need to build them a new house,'" said Doug Carr, chief executive officer of the association.

The project is completely dependent on donations, and several companies within the association have donated time, products and money.

Carr estimates the association has about half of the materials necessary to rebuild the home. The project needs \$50,000 before the builders can break ground.

"We still need contributions," he said, adding that he hopes to have everything by July in order to begin building in the fall. "We are not going to start building anything until we have contributions to cover the whole project."

The 1600 square-foot house's floor plans have been a source of excitement for the Wanger family.

"We are so excited, we can't hardly wait," Arlene said.

Although the house plan has many features the Wangers can look forward to, the family agrees that having more than one bathroom will be the greatest luxury.

The daily routine

The day begins at 4:30 a.m. in order to get meals, medications and baths done before school and work, Arlene said.

"We're very, very busy around here from 4:30 'til 8 or 9 o'clock (in the morning)," she said.

Every morning, all seven children have a bath and are given their medication — neither being a small task. Francis opened a large plastic box filled with bottles of prescription medication. "This is one of four (boxes)," Francis said.

In addition, Arlene said her children usually have about three doctor's appointments per week.

The Wanger's first son, David, was born with cerebral palsy and is mentally impaired. They later decided to adopt a mentally impaired child to be David's playmate, and Richard joined the family at age 11.

Later, Francis was working at Michigan School for the Blind in Lansing when the couple fell in love with visually impaired children. They adopted Mary Beth, 37, shortly thereafter.

Arlene said Mary Beth was always climbing trees and running, but that ended when, after her adoption, she fell from a tree and broke her back.

"They said she couldn't walk, but she does," Arlene said.

Sitting next to Francis in his wheelchair, Travis, who joined the family at 4 months as a foster child, waved his hand above his head and motioned for a taste of cotton candy. Francis said cotton candy is one of the only things Travis can put in his mouth to taste, as he is fed through a feeding tube, with a catheter hanging at his side.

"At 18 months, they told us he wouldn't live to be two," Francis said. Travis is now 28 years old.

"We've tried to let all the kids have many activities," Francis said. The activities vary from horseback riding to art class. The younger children attend school, and a few of the older children have jobs.

Kayla Sue, 28, is deaf, and works at Arby's restaurant three days a week. The youngest two, Frances Kay, 24, and Hannah, 15, are both mentally impaired and attend school during the day. Hannah has the mentality of a 12-15-month-old.

"Francis always joked that in my old age I'd talk some agency into giving me my baby. This is my baby," Arlene said, looking at Hannah. "She's our baby for life."

Francis said his family is quite the spectacle in public.

"When we go to a place, everyone is either riding in a wheelchair or pushing one," he said, laughing. "It's like a parade."

The couple said they were thankful for the new home and the association's efforts.

"We are going to owe our lives to the Greater Lansing Home Builders," Arlene said.

CCC: Instilling 'a sense of worth'

Monday, May 22, 2006

By Pat Shellenbarger
The Grand Rapids Press

Frank Munger is among those who think the Civilian Conservation Corps was a great idea whose time has come -- again.

He was a teenager on a Cascade Township farm during the Great Depression when he joined the CCC, one of more than 3 million young men, including 120,000 in Michigan, who planted an estimated 3 billion trees nationwide, built 3,470 fire towers and cleared 97,000 miles of fire roads before the program folded in 1942.

"You won't talk to anybody in the CCC who won't tell you it was the best years of his life," Munger said.

He thinks today's youth, faced with the lure of drugs and crime, might similarly benefit. As a founding member of the Bring Back the CCC Committee, he is urging state officials to revive the program.

While the ostensible purpose of the original Civilian Conservation Corps was to create jobs for the millions of unemployed youths, "the underlying reason was to build men, to give boys a sense of worth, and it did," said Munger, 91. "It absolutely did."

Annick Hivert-Carthew, author of a new book, "Proud to Work: a Pictorial History of Michigan's Civilian Conservation Corps," agreed. She will talk about the CCC and the movement to revive it 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt created the CCC "to salvage the landscape of America and the souls of a generation of young men," Hivert-Carthew said. "This is why they want to reopen it, because it helped so many young men find their way in life."

As chairman of the Bring Back the CCC Committee, Dale Herder, an English professor at Lansing Community College, has been pushing the idea for more than a decade.

In 1993, he met with President Clinton's staff, urging them to bring it back.

"They treated us well," Herder said, "but they didn't go along with us."

The state has made a couple of attempts at opening CCC-type camps, operating them with the interest on a \$20 million endowment from the sale of the State Accident Fund. After the 2001 terrorist attacks and faced with a tightening budget, the state closed the camps. The state Department of Natural Resources uses the interest on the fund to pay youths to work day jobs on state land.

That's not enough, Munger and Herder said. The strength of the old CCC was the discipline it instilled, they said. It was a residential program that took the youths away from their homes, and it was run by the military. They want the new CCC operated by the National Guard.

"The DNR knows how to do the work," said Dick Laing, a committee member from Grand Blanc, "but they don't know how to handle 18-year-olds."

Laing, Herder and Munger would like the program to target **youths who have "aged out" of the state's foster care system**. Gov. Jennifer Granholm proposed a program similar to the old CCC, called the Michigan Leadership, Education and Development Initiative, but the state House has not included her request for \$5 million in next year's budget.

Munger isn't about to give up. After his stint in the CCC, he made a career of the Navy, was a police officer in Washington, D.C., sold insurance for years, then retired in Grand Rapids.

In 1979, he founded the Grand Rapids chapter of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. It once had 200 members, but in March, with only about 15 members alive, it disbanded. The annual state convention of CCC alumni, likely the last, will be June 3 at Higgins Lake near the Michigan CCC Museum and a bronze statue of a CCC worker.

Munger, who has diabetes and bladder cancer, knows he is among a dwindling number who remember the old CCC, and he knows the idea of bringing it back is a long shot.

"I guess you might say I'm hopeful something will happen before I pass on," he said, "but I probably won't live to see it."

Send e-mail to the author: pshellenbarger@grpress.com

Gov Signs Medicaid Bill

MIRS, Monday, May 22, 2006

Today Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** signed a bill that would prevent certain 19-and 20-year olds from receiving Medicaid payments.

According to **SB 0838**, which was sponsored by Senate Minority Leader Bob **EMERSON** (D-Flint) these people would only be ineligible if their families are eligible for welfare payments.

This bill received mixed reviews in the House and Senate passing the House 72-33 and passing the Senate 23-14, but moved to the governor as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 budget agreement between the Republican-led legislature and the governor.

The governor also signed:

HB 5045, sponsored by Rep. Tonya **SCHUITMAKER** (R-Lawton), requires mobile home titles be put on the reverse side of the certificate title for the mobile home.

HB 5313, sponsored by Rep. Howard **WALKER** (R-Traverse City), allows townships to appoint two alternates to a board that reviews property taxes.

HB 5144, sponsored by Rep. Richard **BALL** (R-Bennington Twp.), designates "Commemorative Bucks of Michigan" as the official record keeper of big game records.

HB 5554, sponsored by Rep. Joe **HUNE** (R-Hamburg), creates a "green school" designation for schools that follow certain environmental protections like recycling.

HB 4171, sponsored by Rep. John **PASTOR** (R-Livonia), allows landlords to be reimbursed for their own labor when they make repairs to property that was damaged by a tenant.

Uninsured options: Being uninsured doesn't mean staying away from the doctor

By Tanya Berkebile, Cadillac News

May 23, 2006

When Lollie Ahern goes to the doctor, she feels a little apprehensive when it comes time to find out what it is going to cost her for the visit as well as any medicines prescribed.

The Manton senior citizen finds herself in a similar situation as the more than 46 million Americans that the federal government estimates as being uninsured. What makes Ahern different is that she is fortunate to have Medicare.

"There is a deductible to meet, but it does pay 80 percent," she said. "It is cheaper for me to pay the co-pay for Medicare rather than insurance. However, it doesn't pay for the cost of my prescriptions and they get rather expensive."

In the local four-county area - Wexford, Missaukee, Lake and Osceola counties - approximately 17 percent of individuals do not have any type of insurance, according to a 2005 phone survey by the Michigan Department of Community Health. This area has the second highest uninsured rate in Michigan, after inner city Detroit, which is approximately a percentage point higher.

"It is really too bad that the number of those uninsured is so high," said Lucy Tomasi, director of the Cadillac Area Community Free Health Clinic. "The cost of untreated illnesses is astronomical and the costs filter down to all of us. One study says about \$87 out of everyone's yearly premium goes toward the care of those who are uninsured."

Just because a person doesn't have insurance does not mean they can't or shouldn't see a doctor. Tomasi said that the longer a person goes without seeking treatment, the more it is going to cost. There are options available to help people in that type of situation.

At the health clinic, between 10,000 and 11,000 people without insurance are seen each year. The clinic is for those who need care, but can't afford to see a family physician. The clinic is from 5 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday at the District No. 10 Health Department at 521 Cobb St., although doctors will stay until all patients are taken care of.

"It is a walk-in clinic staffed by volunteer physicians and nurses," Tomasi said. "The focus is on providing temporary health care to those without insurance, although it isn't meant to replace a family physician. If more care is needed, we might try to refer the person to another agency such as migrant worker clinics, Love INC or another health care agency."

Besides the cost of care, prescriptions also can put a dent in one's pocketbook. Ahern is now having a difficult time paying for her three prescriptions every month with the new Medicare drug program. She said she is likely to stop taking her medication, since she can't afford it on her fixed income.

"I used to have a good prescription card but the card isn't good anymore since I didn't sign up for the (Medicare) Plan D," she said. "I don't have all that extra money to pay for three prescriptions, and they aren't cheap. If I can't pay for them, then I won't be taking them. I guess we'll see what happens."

There is help for those needing prescriptions through a medication access program at the free health clinic. The program served about 1,100 people last year.

Besides the clinic, there are other programs available to help those without insurance like Cadillac Mercy Hospital. Sheila Hildebrandt helps patients who don't know where to go.

"More and more agencies, including hospitals, are having to step up and take care of the uninsured," the patient financial counselor said. "We had to put in other programs to kind of take the pressure off financial assistance."

Discounts are given on any service to those who qualify, help with payments to COBRA accounts are available and a new loan program is being implemented. Through the new program, there are 0 percent interest loans available as well as small payment plans.

Carol Macgillidray, a Medicaid specialist with Care Assist, also is available to work with patients who need assistance. She will soon be signing up patients throughout the month of June for the Adult Medical Program.

"The open enrollment only happens once or twice a year," she said. "This is for those who would normally fall through the cracks and are not able to get insurance. It covers ER visits, some outpatient and some medicine."

To qualify for the program, people must be between 21 and 64 years old (those older or younger can be eligible for a different program), be on very low income, have a low amount of assets and have no children. Those who are on the program, which is available for the whole year, can then reapply again the next year if needed.

"We try to get as many enrolled as we can in this amount of time," Macgillidray said. "After the timeframe is up, we don't know when it will be open again."

Another option for those who are underinsured or without insurance is the District Health Dept. No. 10. The department offers limited health coverage programs that assist with office visits and limited pharmaceutical and outpatient coverage.

"This program is for adults who are residents of one of 10 counties covered and must have income at 150 percent poverty level or below," said Linda McGills, health officer at

the health department.

Besides those services, preventative services are also offered. Those include children immunization programs, family planning programs and cervical cancer screening programs.

“Preventative care is another way to help keep the costs down,” McGills said. “It not only is cheaper for that person's care in the long run, but will also help save health care dollars.”

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METRO DETROIT

My reputation is at stake, Young says of abuse case

May 23, 2006

BY FRANK WITSIL
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

Dmitri Young's pretrial hearing is to be June 13.

Although weeks into a disappointing season, Detroit Tigers designated hitter Dmitri Young's worries aren't limited to the baseball field.

Now facing a domestic violence charge, Young is worried that his legal woes could overshadow his professional struggles, and damage a reputation he says is a positive one.

"When you have a reputation of being a good guy that people depend on -- especially in the city of Detroit -- that gets tested," Young told the Free Press on Monday.

"The true believers are there. But I know that I've got the support from my teammates and my peers around the league. I know that I've got some good people behind me," he said.

Out of the glare of the media spotlight, Young was arraigned Friday afternoon at the 48th District Court in Bloomfield Hills on charges that he choked his 21-year-old girlfriend last month at a Birmingham hotel.

Young was wanted on an arrest warrant charging domestic abuse issued last week.

Young's attorney William Swor declined to comment.

For many games in the past two weeks, Young has been out of the lineup either because his upper right leg continues to bother him -- an injury that had him on the disabled list earlier this season -- or because manager Jim Leyland hasn't been happy with his swing.

As for the domestic violence charge, Young's pretrial hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. June 13 before Judge Diane D'Agostini.

He was released on a \$5,000 personal bond.

Young, 32, is accused of choking his then-girlfriend in the early morning hours of April 14, while the two were staying at the Townsend Hotel.

If convicted, he could face a maximum sentence of 93 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Contact FRANK WITSIL at 248-351-3690 or witsil@freepress.com. Sportswriter John Lowe contributed to this report.

Man sentenced in beating

Grand Rapids Press
Tuesday, May 23, 2006

GRAND HAVEN -- A Holland man was sentenced to nearly seven years in prison Monday for repeatedly striking his girlfriend in the head with a hammer. Alton E. Overweg, 39, was convicted of attempted murder in April after a bench trial. The victim suffered serious head injuries but has recovered.

BREAKING NEWS

State investigates overcrowding at Wayne juvenile detention facility

May 22, 2006

**BY JACK KRESNAK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER**

A state licensing worker began investigating overcrowding Monday at the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility in downtown Detroit as the facility's population peaked at 230.

The facility is licensed for 190 juvenile offenders, but several problems have contributed to a recent mushrooming of the population:

(bullet) A fire last week temporarily closed the Elliott Center, a 56-bed privately-run juvenile detention facility.

(bullet) A change in the family court's docketing system has left more detained kids waiting longer for a court hearing.

(bullet) The number of juveniles arrested by Wayne County law enforcement agencies has increased.

Dan Chaney, juvenile justice director for the Wayne County.

Department of Children and Family Services, said about two dozen juveniles were being moved today but police agencies are bringing in more children whose offenses meet the facility's admission requirements.

□We're trying to find out why,□ Chaney said. □Some problems in schools? Stepped up enforcement by police to remove kids from the streets?□

Two weeks ago, 116 children were admitted and 116 were released, he said. For the week of May 10-17, 121 kids were admitted and only 99 released.

A fire in the laundry room of the Elliott Center in Detroit early on May 15 forced the facility to shut down to repair smoke damage. Nearly all the children in that facility slept last week in the gymnasium at the Calumet Center in Highland Park.

Both centers are run by Spectrum Human Services under contracts with the county and the state. The Elliott Center re-opened Monday.

The state-of-the-art \$48 million Wayne County Juvenile Detention Facility was opened in 1998 with purposely fewer beds than the old facility on Forest Avenue. The county designed better system of moving kids out of detention facilities and into treatment programs so crowding was not expected to be an issue.

Wayne County Judge Mary Beth Kelly offered some explanation for what has happened.

□ We have done some real blitzing over the last couple of days, getting kids out of the detention facility, and we are putting together a task force to stay focused on this, □ Kelly said.

□ I don't think the elimination of the fast track docket is a factor, □ Kelly said. □ One of the issues is really a crack down in the summer months which we typically see. And secondly we have fewer detention facilities out in the private sector.

METRO DETROIT

Crowding takes Wayne Co. juvenile center by surprise

May 23, 2006

BY JACK KRESNAK
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

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The facility is licensed for 190 juvenile offenders, but several problems have contributed to a recent mushrooming of the population:

- A fire last week temporarily closed the Eliot Center, a 56-bed privately run juvenile detention facility. The center reopened Monday.
- A change in the family court's docketing system has left more detained kids waiting longer for hearings.
- The number of juveniles arrested by Wayne County law enforcement agencies has increased.

Dan Chaney, juvenile justice director for the Wayne County Department of Children and Family Services, said about two dozen juveniles were being moved out of the facility Monday. But police agencies lately have brought in more children whose offenses meet the facility's admission requirements.

"We're trying to find out why," Chaney said. "Some problems in schools? Stepped-up enforcement by police to remove kids from the streets?"

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Wayne County Circuit Chief Judge Mary Beth Kelly said the courts are not to blame. Judges and referees have been working to call cases sooner to get children out of the detention center and into treatment programs.

"We have done some real blitzing over the last couple of days, getting kids out of the detention facility, and we are putting together a task force to stay focused on this," Kelly said Monday.

Contact JACK KRESNAK at 313-223-4544 or jkresnak@freepress.com.

Ann Arbor News

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Teenage suspect in stabbing surrenders

A 15-year-old Ypsilanti Township boy wanted in connection with a stabbing Sunday evening surrendered to police Monday.

Detective Sgt. Jeff Connelly said the boy is being held in the juvenile detention facility, and police are seeking charges of assault with intent to commit murder. He also could be charged as an adult, Connelly said.

The boy is accused of stabbing a 14-year-old boy five times in the 1900 block of West Stadium Boulevard at 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Police said the suspect made arrangements to meet the victim, then attacked him in retaliation for allegedly assaulting the suspect's girlfriend a month ago. The victim suffered non-life-threatening injuries.

Connelly said police also are investigating the alleged assault a month earlier involving the victim and the suspect's girlfriend.

Defense attorney announces fundraising for convicted mother

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

By JEFF KART
BAY CITY TIMES WRITER

Supporters of Donna Yost have 10 reasons they say the Bay City woman was denied a fair trial in the 1999 death of her 7-year-old daughter, Monique.

They hope to come up with \$25,000 for legal fees to appeal Yost's April conviction in Bay County Circuit Court for first-degree felony murder and second-degree murder.

Attorney Edward M. Czuprynski of Bay City announced a fundraising drive on Monday that aims to appeal the conviction to the Michigan Court of Appeals. He says he won't handle the appeal himself, and has contacted attorneys Martin Tieber of Lansing and Randall Karfonta of Traverse City about taking the case.

Czuprynski said there's been a "strong outpouring of public support and concern of how the trial was handled" ever since Yost's conviction.

"Donna Yost was not given a fair trial," he said. "It's that simple and that's all we want to do."

Bay County Prosecutor Joseph K. Sheeran said the trial was fair, and Yost is entitled to raise money, but she has a right to an appeal and a court-appointed attorney at no charge.

"Over the years, Mr. Czuprynski has blamed nearly everyone but Donna Yost for Monique's death," Sheeran said.

"He's blamed social workers, teachers, police officers, detectives, psychologists, doctors, emergency medical responders, emergency room personnel, victim advocates, the prosecutor, other members of the Yost family and the family dog.

"Now, surprise, surprise, he's blaming the judge. The jury has properly affixed responsibility for Monique's death where it belongs - with Donna Yost."

The fundraising campaign will involve 200 cans placed at area businesses and other buildings, and is co-chaired by Justin Schatzer, who works for Czuprynski, and Tula Sharrard, who used to counsel Donna Yost.

The convicted woman now sits in the Bay County Jail and is to be sentenced to life in prison on June 6.

So far, about \$3,000 has been raised, supporters said. Most of the money came from two, \$1,000 checks from Stas and Felicia Yascolt of Pinconning and Neal and Debi Graveratte of Linwood.

"I think she's been railroaded," said Yascolt, adding that he followed the trial but has never met Yost.

He pointed to one of the 10 reasons listed by Czuprynski on Monday, and printed on the back of the cans: Improper use of videotaped testimony from a witness held in jail against her will.

"I'm not convinced of her innocence," Yascolt said, "but she has to be proven guilty."

Three other main reasons, Czuprynski said, were that witnesses for the defense - a toxicologist, psychologist and suicide expert - were either barred from testifying or had their testimony improperly restricted.

Czuprynski said he also is seeking volunteers to help her cause, and those interested can call his office at 894-1155.

- Jeff Kart covers the environment and politics for The Times. He can be reached at 894-9639 or by e-mail at i.

Mother who hid son loses appeal

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

By Steven Hepker
shepker@citpat.com -- 768-4923

The U.S. Supreme Court will not hear the appeal of a former Concord mother who hid her son from his father for 15 years.

"That pretty much kills the appeal once and for all," Jackson County Assistant Prosecutor Jerrold Schrotenboer said upon news from the high court Monday.

Terese Moler fled Michigan with 3-year-old Jacob in 1987 after making unsubstantiated claims her estranged husband, Joseph Mason, sexually assaulted the boy and was a devil worshipper and drug user.

Moler, then Terese Mason, fled Jackson County after University of Michigan psychologists recommended placing Jacob in foster care. Some thought she could be emotionally abusing her son.

Experts said the boy would benefit from parenting time with his dad, who was granted unsupervised visits in 1987. That never happened. Jacob was voting age by the time

Mason saw him again.

"I have been praying she would not win her appeal, and keep the felony," Joseph Mason said Monday from his Battle Creek home. "She took away my chance to be a father to Jacob. She voided me."

The boy said at trial he had no interest in seeing his father.

"I am still optimistic he would like to find me," Joseph Mason said. "I've lived in the same place for 30 years. I am not that hard to find."

A family spokesman for Terese Moler declined to comment Monday.

Testimony in the 2002 trial indicated Terese Mason changed her name and lived in Michigan, Indiana, Vermont, Florida, Colorado, California and Arizona without a job.

She testified that she saw her family once in 15 years and returned to Michigan only after her son turned 18. She was living in Arizona and Jacob was in a private Christian high school when Mason returned to Jackson County in 2002.

When she refused to say where Jacob was living, Circuit Judge Alexander Perlos jailed her a month for contempt. A jury found her guilty of parental kidnapping, for which she served 60 days in jail.

Sex diary betrays man's lust for boys

Judge refuses to reduce bond in Web porn case

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

BY ART AISNER
Ann Arbor News Staff Reporter

A series of disturbing passages from Ken Gourlay's electronic diary in which he described his lust for young boys and a willingness to act on his desires led a judge on Monday to refuse reduced bond for the former Ann Arbor resident.

Gourlay, who at one time was a student teacher at Greenhills School, is accused of molesting a boy he lured to Ann Arbor from California several years ago and then exploiting the youth on a for-pay Internet sex site. The case has drawn national attention and is part of a congressional investigation into the sexual exploitation of children.

Washtenaw County Chief District Judge Cedric Simpson said Gourlay, 28, was a substantial danger to the community despite a host of relatives and members of his former church who testified to his character at an emergency bond hearing that began last Thursday and concluded Monday.

Gourlay's attorneys asked Simpson to reduce the \$500,000 cash bond set shortly after their client was arrested at his Detroit home earlier this month.

Particularly troubling to Simpson were the multiple diary entries found by investigators on Gourlay's home computer that exposed a life hidden from Gourlay's loved ones.

Entries stretching from 1999 to 2001 described the inner turmoil the church-going University of Michigan graduate felt over his thoughts about having sex with young boys.

Simpson read from the diary while issuing his ruling, focusing on segments that detailed Gourlay's inappropriate thoughts about children he knew and some he didn't, but saw frequently. Other entries discussed watching pornography with children and masturbation, and his interactions with a 12-year-old boy.

"And I'm supposed to be the (expletive omitted) light of the world?" Simpson quoted Gourlay as saying while reading from a thick printout well over 50 pages. "(Expletives omitted) Maybe I just need to (expletive omitted) kill myself. And if I do that, I might as well (expletive omitted) a few kids first. Believe me, he'd be one of the first."

"Planning a statutory rape is a lot easier if along with it I plan a suicide."

Some among the handful of Gourlay's supporters in the courtroom Monday sunk their heads as Simpson continued reading.

Testimony revealed Gourlay wrote the diary entries while still a U-M student and shortly after his graduation, when he was a student teacher at Greenhills School, a private Ann Arbor prep school. But the charges against Gourlay are not related to a local victim.

Justin Berry, who received national attention for testifying before Congress about the sexual exploitation of children on the Internet, alleged Gourlay lured him to Michigan for a computer camp at U-M in 2000 at age 13. Gourlay, a computer consultant, molested him and set up a Web site that charged monthly fees for videos of Berry performing various sex acts, according to Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox. Cox's office launched an investigation after both Berry and Gourlay appeared on Capitol Hill last month.

Gourlay is charged with 10 felony counts related to sexual abuse and distributing sexually abusive materials, charges that carry a maximum prison sentence ranging from four to 20 years. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for June 15.

Simpson heard testimony from 12 witnesses advocating for Gourlay's supervised release, including his parents, John and Kathie Gourlay, who officials said flew from an overseas vacation Monday to attend the hearing.

Both parents testified Monday they could monitor Gourlay at their Lima Township home and would abide by any restrictions Simpson imposed. Under stern questioning from Special Assistant Attorney General Douglas Baker, each said they would report their own son to authorities if he didn't comply.

"It's better than the alternative, which is to have him in jail," Kathie Gourlay said after admitting it would be awkward.

Simpson said he believed them, but it would be unfair to place Gourlay's parents in the position to protect the community. The judge said the diary shows a side of Gourlay that those close to him did not know.

"They all were compelling to a certain extent, in their belief of the defendant, however, ... there's an alleged part of the defendant that's absent or hidden from view. That came through loud and clear," Simpson said.

Simpson also said that the risk of flight would only increase as the case continued to build against Gourlay.

James Howarth, Gourlay's attorney, argued that Gourlay would willingly appear for court hearings just as he voluntarily testified before the congressional committee.

But Simpson said Gourlay's participation in local court hearings could lead to further incarceration while congressional hearings routinely do not, unless subjects refuse to participate.

Simpson denied Howarth's request to place Gourlay on an electronic tether, stating that no device, or parent for that matter, could prevent Gourlay from doing harm if he decided to act on his sexual compulsions and suicidal thoughts.

Gourlay's father, John, declined to comment as he and supporters left the courtroom Monday.

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Winter's Bills Still Have Bite

More assistance needed for low-income families

May 23, 2006

The past winter was hardly a record-setter, except perhaps in the damage it did to family budgets. Without more help, especially for low-income working families, the situation will surely worsen as the year wears on.

In more than one out of seven households in Michigan, families had to borrow money this winter to pay their energy bills, according to an EPIC-MRA poll done for the Heat and Warmth fund. Nearly twice that many said their heat bills were a big problem. About a quarter of all households negotiated with their utility company for a payment plan or shutoff protection.

Spring does not necessarily bring relief. The statewide winter protection program, which prevented most cold-weather shutoffs, ended last month. Families that cannot come to terms with bills built up over the winter now face the consequences. Those with combined electric-natural gas service may have their electricity turned off even though it was the cost of the gas -- up to 59% higher last winter -- that caused their problems. That's a danger for those who depend on air-conditioning because of respiratory problems or allergies, or for senior citizens who fear leaving doors and windows open. A hot summer could bring calamity.

People seeking aid this year included many who had lost a job and settled for another with lower pay, said Kathy Walgren, THAW's executive director. That's just one more ripple effect of the tenuous Michigan economy. Working families often do not qualify for the help available to families in deep poverty and must depend on charitable programs such as THAW (www.thawfund.org) when they're overwhelmed.

Congress needs to examine whether a graduated scale for emergency assistance makes sense, given the sudden increase in energy prices. People should not have to slide into poverty just to keep their heat and lights on.

Church to give food away

HOMETOWN HEADLINES

BURTON

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

By George Jaksa

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BURTON - City of Hope Church, 5490 Davison Road, will give away food noon-3 p.m. Saturday while supplies last.

The event is sponsored by the Samaritan Center, a community outreach program of City of Hope Church.

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

A child is waiting

'Sweet girl' needs encouragement

Rosemary Dorr / Special to The Detroit News

"I want to get good grades," explains Parshey, whose smile is as sweet as she is. "I like to get my education so I can go to college and be what I want to be."

Only 13, Parshey is busy catching up in special education classes, discovering her strengths and working through issues.

Shy at first, Parshey confides, "I need someone to encourage me. I don't like my behavior. I get bored fast."

Her manager at the therapeutic residence where Parshey has lived four months says, "Parshey is a sweetheart. A loving, caring person who will do what you ask of her. But she'd never been taught (the basics), is easily distracted and needs lots of one-on-one attention"

In a family, Parshey wants "good people who'll love me. I'm a helpful person. I love people who are nice to me. I can draw real good, too. I go to church. I like to play video games and play basketball."

"Parshey is a very, very sweet girl," says her adoption worker. "She definitely needs a family that is willing to have a strong connection with the school system and also connect with the therapy she'll need."

Please consider adoption and talk with Lauren Reed at Evergreen Children's Services, (313) 862-1000, ext. 160.

Last column's child: Makiah, 12, needs a family's help to deal with her hurts, losses and challenges. For information, call Alice Johnson at Homes for Black Children, (313) 961-4777.

A Child is Waiting appears Tuesdays in Features.

By PETE FRECCHIO, Staff Writer

Great Start Dickinson-Iron ISD lands \$90,000 grant



CAPTION: Michigan Early Childhood Investment Corp. operating officer Mike Foley presented a ceremonial check Friday to Johanna Ostwald, Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District superintendent. The funds will support a local Great Start Collaborative that will strengthen early childhood development and care in Dickinson and Iron counties. From left, are Bob Roberge; Dickinson County Sheriff Don Charlevoix; Johanna Ostwald; Lisa Temple; Mike Foley; Bruce Ortteneburger; Karen Thekan; State Sen. Mike Prusi, D-Ishpeming; Probate Judge Thomas Slagle; Matt Johnson of U.S. Rep. Bart Supak's office; Linda Piper, acting health officer; and Dale McNamee.

Theresa Peterson/Daily News Photo

KINGSFORD — The Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District has received a \$90,000 grant to support a local Great Start Collaborative that will strengthen early childhood development and care in Dickinson and Iron counties.

Michigan Department of Human Services Director Marianne Udow and Early Childhood Investment Corp. operating officer Mike Foley presented a ceremonial check to Johanna Ostwald, district superintendent.

The Dickinson-Iron ISD is the only educational unit in the U.P. to receive such a grant.

The Early Childhood Investment Corp., which Gov. Jennifer Granholm announced in her 2005 State of the State address, is developing the framework for effective early childhood development and care programs through partnerships with local collaboratives across the state.

The local Great Start collaborative will use the money to conduct a community assessment and develop a strategic plan for the development of a comprehensive system of early childhood services and supports accessible to all children from birth to kindergarten, and their families.

In addition to the Dickinson-Iron ISD, 13 other ISDs and RESAs around the state were also awarded funding for planning and/or implementation of great Start collaboratives.

“Children who participate in high-quality early childhood development programs are better prepared to enter elementary school, are more likely to pursue secondary education and have lower drop-out rates and higher high school graduation rates.” Udow said.

“By improving the skills of a large fraction of the workforce, these programs for poor children will reduce poverty and strengthen the state’s ability to compete in the global market,” she said.

Pete Frecchio’s e-mail address is pfrecchio@ironmountaindailynews.com

Agencies air beefs with United Way

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

By Tarryl Jackson
tjackson@citpat.com --768-4941

Local nonprofit agencies are expressing frustration about the funding they will receive from the United Way of Jackson County, with some saying it puts them in peril.

The nonprofit organization announced earlier this month it would be handing \$940,000 to local agencies for the 2006-09 grant cycle, down from \$1.3 million for 2002-05.

"We feel we're in jeopardy of going away," said Thomas E. Brown, Director of Finance at Lily Missions Center, which will get \$20,000 a year from United Way for its after-school education program, down from \$62,000 annually in the previous cycle. "Our fear is that we won't have the money to continue on."

The center hosted a session Monday where agencies had an opportunity to ask questions of the United Way and offer feedback.

United Way Executive Director Ken Toll said allocations were based on how each program fulfills the community's basic needs, such as food, shelter, health and education. The organization's volunteer vision councils look at each agency's request and find out how the money could be efficiently used for that particular program.

"We exist to improve lives and find out the best way to do that," Toll said.

United Way raised about \$3 million last year. About \$800,000 of funds raised this year go toward an operating budget that includes 11 employees' salaries. Toll said administrative costs have increased as the agency starts up more of its own programs. United Way is also using about \$500,000 for its own initiatives to help prevent problems such as teen pregnancy and various family issues.

Jennie McAlpine, executive director of Child Care Network in Jackson, said she sees more money going into initiatives but not into action to fulfill children's needs. United Way turned down the organization's grant request altogether for 2006-09.

"I still don't see that commitment to young kids and how we're going to support them," said McAlpine, whose organization received \$45,000 in the last cycle. "We're pulling services away that should be out there for people."

Toll said about 85 percent of money is going toward youth and family programs for this funding cycle.

"I think our donors want their dollars to go to what is best for their community," he said.

The Rev. James Hines, pastor of Lily Missionary Baptist Church, said local agencies need to concentrate on community needs and stop being so disappointed with the grant allocations.

"We have to stick together, and everybody has to be accountable," said Hines, also a United Way board member.

John Campau, president of the John George Home's board of directors, said local agencies need to lessen their dependence on the United Way. The home asked for \$50,000 for 2006-09; it received \$5,000.

"We need to work harder and harder to be more and more independent," said Campau, also a United Way board member.

Michigan Report

May 22, 2006

WITH JUNE 'DEADLINE, HUMMEL: NO BIG SURPRISES IN OMNIBUS BILL

Budgets will remain similar to those that were approved at the subcommittee level, House Appropriations chair Rep. Scott Hummel (R-DeWitt) said Monday, as both houses are preparing major budget work this week.

The full panel is scheduled to meet on the omnibus bill (HB 5795) at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Committee is meeting on a series of budget bills at 1 p.m., Tuesday.

Legislative leaders are shooting for mid-June to complete work on the 2006-07 budget. Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema (R-Wyoming) has said, through his spokesperson, that he wants all action on the budget – including negotiations on targets with Governor Jennifer Granholm – completed by June 15.

Mr. Hummel said some technical changes will be made concerning the budgets and that the further adoptions made to welfare policy by the House last week will also be reflected in the **Department of Human Services** budget.

For a supplement to the current fiscal year, the House added more restrictions and disqualifications to able-bodied adults receiving cash assistance, including bumping up the sanction schedule from 12 to 24 months for a third violation of work requirements, as well as taking people off the system who have murder, rape, robbery, child molestation convictions or a drug felony since 1997.

Mr. Hummel said it's the intent of both legislative leaders in the House and Senate to finish out their budgets this week and to sit down after that to work out differences amongst the chambers' appropriations.

Leaders are then looking to mid-June for those disagreements to be worked out and finalize target agreements with the administration by the end of June, he said.

When asked if that kind of fast-paced schedule has ever happened, Mr. Hummel said "a couple times in the past 23 years."

Ari Adler, spokesperson for Mr. Sikkema, said ending in late June is too late for the majority leader. It is possible to complete all action on the budget in just over three weeks.

For that to happen, however, agreements have to be reached with the administration on budget targets, and Mr. Adler said no negotiations have been scheduled as yet.

Both the House and Senate have not scheduled session for July and August, except for the Senate, which has a tentative session day set a week before the primary. The 2006-2007 fiscal year begins in 132 days.

But Rep. Rich Brown (D-Bessemer), the ranking Democrat on Appropriations, said while “the potential is there to move everything out,” he thinks budget target groups will most likely meet throughout the summer.

To his knowledge, Mr. Brown said Republican leaders have not worked with the administration yet on the budgets formally and there are conflicts between the House versions and the Senate, as well as the executive office.

Mr. Brown said the welfare reforms and the university funding formula will again be points of difference (last year, the agreement budget took out welfare reforms and while a funding formula was used for state universities, the appropriations to different schools were based somewhat on increased floor funding).

Another discrepancy between parties concerns the cuts to prisoner education under the Department of Corrections budget, and the deletion (except for a placeholder) of Governor Jennifer Granholm’s proposal to provide uninsured residents with coverage under a federal Medicaid waiver, Mr. Brown said.

While everybody would like to wrap up the budgets before the 4th of July, Mr. Brown said in his tenure he hasn’t seen it happen.

Greg Bird, spokesperson for the State Budget Office, said the schedule “is certainly possible,” but once officials sit down to conduct budget target agreements “it can take two days or two months.”

Legislative leaders have not formally sat down with the administration to discuss the budgets as they are still before each chamber, Mr. Bird said, but at this point, there are differences that have surfaced in the budgets and will have to be worked out.